THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Condition of VHGS

5085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Village Health Guides Working in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Village Health guides, who are getting Rs. 50/- per month, have not received their allowance since last fifty two months in Orissa; and

(c) whether Government would consider to enhance their allowance and also take steps to clear all arrears due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) There are 323208 Village Health Guides working in the country.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare releases funds every year to the State Government. The responsibility for disbursing funds is with the State Government. During last three years funds released to Government of Orissa are as follows:—

Year	*Amount released (Rs. in lakh)*
1997-98	69.05
1998-99	69.23
1999-2000	69.23

(c) An Expert Committee has reviewed the Scheme and submitted its report which is under examination in consultation with other Ministries.

CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

5086. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of facilities provided in those CGHS dispensaires;

(c) the total number of CGHS beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu; and